

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, between the title of the invention and the first line of the text, insert the following:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This Application is a Section 371 National Stage Application of International Application No. PCT/FR2004/001758, filed July 6, 2004 and published as WO 2005/006557 A1 on January 20, 2005, not in English.

FIELD OF DISCLOSURE

Please replace the paragraphs appearing on page 1, lines 1-7 with the following amended paragraphs:

The ~~invention disclosure~~ relates to a device for comparing two words (bus) N and P of n bits each. It can in particular, but not exclusively, be produced in the form of an MOS-transistor circuit.

The comparator according to the ~~invention disclosure~~ can be used in any type of circuit requiring a comparison of two n-bit buses.

Page 1, after line 7, insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

Page 2, after line 2, insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraphs appearing on page 2, lines 3-18 with the following amended paragraphs:

~~The~~An aim of one or more embodiments of the invention is in particular to overcome these various disadvantages of the prior art.

More specifically, ~~one of the objectives or more embodiments of~~ this invention ~~is to~~ provide a device for rapid comparison.

Another aim of one or more embodiments of the invention is to provide a comparison device that is adjustable and consistently efficient regardless of the number of word bits to be compared.

An additional aim of one or more embodiments of the invention is to provide an efficient device that does not require a large number of transistors.

~~These various objectives, as well as others that will be described below, are achieved according to~~ For example, an embodiment of the invention ~~with~~ comprises a device for comparing two words N and P of n bits each, which device includes at least one level-1 comparator block which itself includes:

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 3, line 23 and ending on page 4, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

~~The general principle An embodiment of~~ the invention therefore ~~involves~~includes the use not of subtraction means but only comparison means. Indeed, each basic comparator block provides two signals used by the level-1 comparator block: one indicating the equality or inequality of the two bits, and the other indicating which of the two bits is greater. Similarly, each level-1 comparator block provides two signals: one indicating the equality or inequality of the two groups of bits, and the other indicating which of the two groups of bits is greater.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 4, line 21 and ending on page 5, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

The originality of an embodiment of the invention lies in the use of a basic structure (basic comparator block) containing few transistors and allowing for a very short propagation time. This structure will be repeated n times and interconnected by specific means so as to form a b-bit (level-1) comparator block. As explained below, in a preferred embodiment of the invention,

several level-1 comparator blocks can function very rapidly, simultaneously and entirely autonomously, connected to one another by specific means, thus enabling words with a large number of bits to be compared.

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 9, lines 18-22 with the following amended paragraph:

Other features and advantages of one or more embodiments of the invention will appear in the following description of a preferred embodiment of the invention, given as an indicative and non-limiting example, and the appended drawings, in which.

Page 9, after line 22, insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 10, after line 7, insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS